

THE RAILWAY MAIL SERVICE

Efforts of Superintendent Bell to Extend It and Increase Its Efficiency.

Growing Demand for Silk-Worm Eggs—Broken-Down Politicians Making Cats-Paws of Farmers—Customs Undervaluations.

Special Correspondence of the Indianapolis Journal.

WASHINGTON, April 4.—Members of the House who have business with the Postoffice Department are unanimous in their praise of Postmaster-general Wanamaker's selection of a Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service. Mr. J. Lowrie Bell, who fills this position now, is a thorough business man, who thoroughly appreciates the importance of every improvement which can possibly be made looking to the earlier delivery of letters. He never permits a suggestion, even of the most trivial character, to remain unheeded, and is always willing to examine carefully into any suggestion which may be offered having this object in view.

Some few days ago, for instance, a member living in central New York called his attention to a plan which might be inaugurated, and which promised the earlier delivery of the letters mailed in Washington addressed to that particular member's bailiwick. Mr. Bell at once saw the force of the proposition, and made an examination into the chances for carrying it into effect. He discovered that by extending the railway mail routes over about a mile of railroad through Philadelphia, the delivery might be made. He at once ordered this done, and the result will be a gain of almost one whole day in the time required to carry a letter from Washington to Philadelphia. This is only a sample of the manner in which the present Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service conducts his office.

Throughout the West Mr. Bell has constantly tried to give better mail facilities to the new towns, and besides this he is perfecting a plan for the distribution of mail matter on the trains running into large cities, by the postal clerks, which will save from thirty minutes to two hours in the sorting and delivery of letters to the principal business centers of the country. Mr. Bell accepted the position of Superintendent of the Railway Mail Service at a financial sacrifice to himself, but he has made a reputation among business men in all parts of the country for efficiency in the mail service, which is a sharp contrast to the reputation enjoyed by the gentleman who preceded him, the railway mail service of the country being so deficient as to lead a majority of the business men having commercial packages or transmission to use the express companies' facilities.

The cultivation of American silk promises to become an industry of no inconsiderable importance within a very few years. It is less than five years since the Agricultural Department perfected a plan to experiment in silk culture and silk winding, and ten years ago silk-worms were almost unknown in the United States. But within the past year or two the demands for silk-worm eggs has grown enormously, and the Agricultural Department has been obliged to send out a great many millions of these little dots during the present spring. Any lady who cares to try her hand at raising raw silk, and who has a supply of orange, mulberry, or other leaves upon which the insects feed, need not go far to find a business by applying to the Secretary of Agriculture for the raw material in the shape of eggs. Full instructions upon the cultivation of the worms are sent to the applicants, and further than this the department buys at current market prices all the cocoons.

There will not be as many bills introduced in this Congress as there were presented in the last. The number to-day is 8,897 introduced in the House during the same period in the first session of the last Congress. About two-thirds of the bills introduced are of a private nature, and a majority are private pension bills. It is likely that the rushing work of Commissioner Raum and his intention to adjudge all pension claims within the next eight months is one of the explanations of the decrease in pension bills. People of the country have been told that the introduction of a bill in Congress amounts to very little; that anybody can have any Senator or member introduce any kind of a respectable bill by merely asking him to do it, and that the real favor is in the Senator or member pushing the bill through. Finally, the men who talk most in either branch of Congress are those who secure the adoption of the smallest number of bills. The real success in legislation lies in committee and individual work, and not in oratory. There were about 13,000 bills introduced during the last Congress, and there was an increase over the previous Congress, but there will be more legislation at the hands of this Congress by virtue of the decrease in the number of measures proposed.

It will take but a few months of time for the farmers throughout the country to understand that politicians have secured absolute control of their organization known as the Farmers' Alliance, and then the political work of the organization will begin to wane. From letters received by men in Congress, written by Democratic and Republican politicians, it is understood that the active work being done in the Farmers' Alliance is led by the Democratic and Republican politicians from the various parties. If the Farmers' Alliance would only confine themselves to their personal interests aside from politics they could do much to influence legislation as well as the commercial interests of the country, but when they go into office they are bound to be led by professional politicians, they at once put themselves to great disadvantage.

It is believed that the legislative customs bill which passed Congress some time ago will have the effect of completely destroying the practice of under-valuation and have the effect of largely increasing revenues of the government without an increase of prices to consumers. Undoubtedly the monopolistic importers at the eastern and western seaboard have grown rich off their under-valuation, and it has been an easy matter to secure a false bill of sale from merchants abroad, whenever American purchasers bought goods for exportation to this country. Many Americans have bought their clothing ready-made in London and elsewhere, with the distinct understanding that the goods should be valued as much lower than the real cost price as the customs duties against them, and simply amounted to free exportation to this country. For instance, if a suit of clothes was purchased in London at \$30 and the duty was 85, the London tailor valued the goods at \$12, and the American purchaser, if it were seen, secured his clothes at the same price which he would have to pay were he in London, with only the express charges added. This under-valuation bill will cut off all this kind of business, and the change from ad valorem to specific duty and vice versa in the tariff will add still further safeguards against under-valuation in the future. FRANK S. HEATH.

Newfoundland Will Repeal the Bait Act. HALIFAX, N. S., April 5.—The Newfoundland government has decided to repeal the bait act, and hereafter French, American and Canadian fishermen will be permitted to freely purchase bait in Newfoundland harbors on payment of tonnage and license fees, but the exportation of bait to St. Pierre Miquelon is prohibited.

Mysterious Capsizing of a Yacht. TORONTO, Ont., April 5.—Yesterday afternoon a large yacht was sighted heading for this port and in full sail. An hour later she seemed to be in distress, but before she could be seen from the fort could reach her capsize. No person was found aboard the vessel, though all the circumstances indicated that she had been manned. Her

sails were all set and her center-board was down, and a man's hat was found in a locker. The name "Idler" was painted on the stern. None of the yachtsmen in this city knew anything about the yacht or her crew, all of whom are supposed to have perished.

ARE YOUR EARS TOO BIG?

If They Are, Surgical Science Will Reduce Them to Symmetrical Proportions.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal.

PHILADELPHIA, April 5.—Two photographs have been hung in the Jefferson Medical College. They are portraits without faces. They show the back of one man's head. The hair and the conformation prove that the two pictures represent the same individual, and yet there is a striking difference, for in one case the ears are normal, while in the other they stand out disfiguringly from the sides of the head. The students of this orthodox old college are having fun over these photographs, and one of their whims is to decide by vote who, among themselves, is the owner of the unrefined face. The explanation of the divergent ears is that they grew donkey-fashion, but, by surgery, they have been reduced to the proportions of human comeliness. The photographic lens was permitted to take a rear view of the ears before their reduction and again after they had been shortened, but it was not deemed considerate to portray the face of the man, and thus subject him to a possibly disagreeable publicity.

The improvement in that pair of ears is regarded as a surgical feat, and the man, who is placed in the college. Modern surgery has not hesitated to cut a new nose, to graft the cheek, to loop up a drooping eyelid, or to engraft the skin of one person upon another, but it has not until now given a man's ears a setback. To Dr. William W. Keen of Jefferson College, came a brother physician to repair a job that had been badly done by nature's "practices" hands, so to speak. The young man, for he was only nineteen, was all ears; that is, his ears were not only abnormally large, but they flapped in a painfully absurd manner. The surgeon proceeded to lay bare the cartilage by removing the skin from the posterior surface of the auricle, and then excised a long, narrow piece of the cartilage.

V-shaped in cross sections, as if he had run a miniature plough over the ridge on the back of the ear. Great care was taken not to cut clear through and thus cause a scar on the anterior surface. The edges of the cartilage were then drawn together by catgut stitches, in addition to those in the skin. This was done while the young man was etherized. He went to sleep with long ears, and he awoke with short ears—very short ones, and so intricately fastened into position that for some nights he had to sleep flat on his back. But when the wound had healed and the flappers were removed he found himself possessed of symmetrical and fair-sized ears.

"From time immemorial," said Professor Martine to your correspondent, after describing the operation, "large and prominent ears have been regarded as unfortunate deformities. They are altogether too suggestive. But no matter how mortifying they may be, they were something which he had to wear summer and winter. There was but one way to hide them, and that was to allow the hair to grow long. Thirty years ago, it was impossible to tell whether a woman had ears or not; the prevailing mode of dressing the hair hid them completely. Each of these beauties have been married by ears too big. Pauline Bonaparte was a victim of auricular superabundance, and it always, served to humiliate her when mentioned by her rivals. 'What a superb beauty, but look at her ears!' Had she lived in this age, this grievous burden could have been lifted from her shoulders, or, more strictly speaking, from her head. It is the operation, and not very. Considerable blood was lost, but that can be obviated in future operations, either by the freezing process or by placing a long thin clamp on the ear. The patient stayed in bed only one day, but it may be there was a woman in the case—he was so anxious to present himself to his sweetheart in a new and improved form that he couldn't wait even forty-eight hours. He was obliged to carry the surgical embolus for ten days, and it was ripped out. The operation was entirely successful, the young man's ears being close up against his head, and not those who have seen these 'before' and 'after' photographs can form a correct idea of the improvement. It is simply astounding."

"And who is the man?" "I really couldn't tell you that. It is a professional secret. But the patient was discovered in the person of Charles N. Forrester, of Camden, just across the river in New Jersey. Mr. Forrester is a graduate of Princeton College, and is now studying for entry into the ministry. 'I don't mind the publication of my name at all,' he remarked. 'Why should I? My friends were all aware of my big ears, and of my good religious record. They were not only a deformity, but they seriously disabled me for my chosen career. Of course, there is a jocular view to take of the matter, but nobody can be better humored than I am about it. For an now, at least, presentable. The operation didn't make an ugly man handsome, but it gave me a good pair of ears.'"

BREAD MADE FROM WOOD.

The Remarkable Possibility for Which Science Is Striving.

Milling Record. Science has already enabled man to extract fiber beverages and many other things of more or less value from wood, and it is now proposed to go a step further and produce bread from wood. In an address recently delivered in Heidelberg, Germany, by no less eminent an author than Victor Meyer, it is announced that we may reasonably hope that chemistry will be able to make the fiber of wood the source of human food. What an enormous stock of food, then, would be found, if it becomes possible in the wood of our forests, or even in grass and straw. The fiber of wood consists essentially of cellulose. Can this be made into starch? That is the question. The same percentage composition, for instance, differs very much in its properties, and the nature of its molecule is probably much more important.

Cellulose is of little or no dietetic value, and it is not altered, like starch, in boiling water. It is a very hard substance, and it is not soluble in water. It is, however, shown when cotton-wool, which is practically pure cellulose, is immersed in it. Starch gives the same result when boiled with weak acid. The author further quotes the researches of Hellriegel, which go to show beyond dispute that certain plants transform atmospheric nitrogen into albumen, and that this process can be improved by suitable treatment. The production, therefore, of cellulose, together with the enforced increase of albumen in plants would be added in reality signify the abolition of the bread question.

Joseph Jefferson on Guying.

April Century. Innocent mirth is most desirable, but not mirth expended at the cost of another's feelings; and Salisbury's unfortunate career, terminating as it did in sickness and poverty, is an example of a handsome man, possessed of fair ability, who by utter disregard of loyalty to his manager and respect for the public, gradually lost the confidence of all who knew him, and became a neglected wreck. The practice of guying and the exhibition of a man's private life, unworthy of an artist or gentleman. The leisure hours passed in a dressing-room or the green-room afford no opportunity for an actor's amusement without inflicting the exuberance of his personal humor upon the audience. The rehearsals and subsequent performances of a play are his property, and he has no right to mutilate them. Managers and leading actors are altogether too lax in their regard for the propriety of the multitude will follow, and no leader can rightly claim the respect of his company unless he shows it to them and the public. I have a suspicion that geying begins where ability leaves off, and that many actors exhibit this trilling to conceal their own shortcomings.

The very best appliances and most successful treatment for diseased joints at the Surgical Institute. Hundreds of names of patients successfully treated furnished on application.

Scatched 28 Years

Scatched twenty-eight years. Body covered with scaly psoriasis. Constant shedding of scales. Suffering endless and without relief. Scatched all the time. Physicians and the usual remedies useless. \$200 thrown away. Cured by the CUTICURA REMEDIES at a cost of \$5. Skin now as clear and free from scales as a baby's. Cured Jan. 20, 1887. Cure permanent to date—Feb. 5, 1890.

Cured by Cuticura

If I had known of the Cuticura Remedies twenty-eight years ago it would have saved me \$200 (two hundred dollars) and an immense amount of suffering. My disease (psoriasis) commenced on my head in 1862, and spread rapidly all over my body and got under my nails. The scales would drop off of me all the time, and my suffering was endless, and without relief. One thousand dollars would not tempt me to have this disease.

poor man, but feel like to be relieved of what some of the doctors said was incurable.

Cuticura Remedies, the greatest skin cures, blood purifiers and humor remedies of modern times, instantly relieve the most agonizing forms of eczema and psoriasis, and speedily, permanently, economically and infallibly cure every species of torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, bleeding, scaly, crusted and pimply diseases and humors of the skin, scalp and blood, with loss of hair, from infancy to age, whether simple, scrofulous, hereditary or contagious, when all other remedies fail.

Cuticura, the great skin cure, instantly cures the most agonizing itching and inflammation, clears the skin and scalp of every trace of disease, heals ulcers and sores, removes crusts and scales and restores the hair. Cuticura Soap, the

PIMPLES, black-heads, chapped, rough, red and only skin prevented by Cuticura Soap.

IN THE SLAVE-SHED.

Sad Fate of Africans Sold Into Slavery in America.

E. J. Glave, in April Century. These hungry creatures form indeed a truly pitiable sight. After suffering this captivity for ten days, they become mere skeletons. All ages, of both sexes, are to be seen; mothers with their babes, young men and women, boys and girls, and even babies who cannot walk, and whose mothers have died of starvation, or perhaps have been killed by the Lufembe. One seldom sees either men or old women; they are all killed in the raids, their marketable value being very small, no trouble being taken to preserve them.

Witnessing groups of these poor, helpless wretches, with their emaciated forms and sunken eyes, their faces a very picture of sadness, it is not difficult to perceive the intense grief that they are inwardly suffering; but they know too well it is of no use to appeal for sympathy to these remorseless masters, who have been accustomed from childhood to witness acts of cruelty and brutality, so that to satisfy their insatiable greed they will commit themselves, or permit to be committed, any atrocity, however great. Even the pitiable sight of one of these slaves—about half grown—represents the misery caused by this traffic—honest broken up, mothers separated from their babies, husbands from wives and brothers from sisters. When last at Namankus I saw a slave-woman who had with her one child, whose starved little body she was clutching to her breast, and whose face, attracted by her sad face, which betokened great suffering, I asked her the cause of it, and she told me in a low, sobbing voice the following tale:

"I was living with my husband and three children in an inland village, a few miles from here. My husband was a hunter. Ten days ago the Lufembe attacked our settlement; my husband defended himself, but was overpowered, and opened to death with several of the other villagers. I was brought here with my three children, two of whom have already been purchased by the traders. I shall never see them any more. Perhaps they will kill them on the death of some chief, or perhaps kill them for food. My remaining child, my son, is ill, lying from starvation; they give us nothing to eat. I expect even this one will be taken from me to-day, as the chief, fearing lest it should die and become a total loss, has ordered it for a very small price. As for myself," said she, "they will sell me to one of the neighboring chiefs, to toil in the plantations, and when I become old and unfit for work I shall be killed."

There were certainly five hundred slaves exposed for sale in this one village alone. Large canoes were constantly arriving from down river, with merchandise of all kinds, with which they purchased these slaves. A large trade is carried on between the Ubangi and Lufembe rivers. The people inhabiting the mouth of the Ubangi buy the Balolo slaves from Namankus and the other markets. They then take them up the Ubangi river and exchange them with the natives for food. These natives buy their slaves solely for food. Having purchased slaves they feed them on ripe bananas, fish and oil, and when they get them into good condition they kill them. Hundreds of the Balolo slaves are taken into the river and sold to the natives, who then take them to the great many other slaves are sold to the large villages on the Congo, to supply victims for the numerous sacrifices. Much life is lost in the capturing of slaves, and during their captivity many succumb to starvation. 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